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Campus crime on increase at PSH

Gia Witmer
Capital Times Staff

The number of criminal offenses on campus has risen 20 percent since 1990, according to a report issued by Penn State Harrisburg Police Services.

Larceny, disorderly conduct and vandalism were the most common offenses, the report said. There were no instances of criminal homicide, rape or robbery. Assaults fell, from two in 1990 to none last year.

Larceny or theft were the typical campus crimes, totaling 31, up from 23 in 1990.

Charles Alesky, chief of Police Services, said the items stolen ranged from car stereos to watches and books.

Larceny is the leading crime because of the economy, he said. People out of jobs need money, so they steal items they can sell.

Incidents of disorderly conduct also

increased. In 1989, disorderly conduct offenses totaled five. In 1990, the number climbed to 20, and in 1991, the number increased to 30 offenses.

Alesky said that in 1988, families were moved from apartments in the Continuing Education Building to Meade Heights. They moved next to young students, and their lifestyles clashed.

"The majority of the offenses were due to the families complaining of loud music after 11," Alesky said.

James D. South, associate provost for administrative operations, said that the families also prevented crime. They are "extra eyes and ears over breaks," he said.

During the summer, he recalled, a couple helped arrest teenagers from Middletown, who they saw break into a house.

Vandalism incidents increased by one, from 17 offenses in 1990 to 18 in 1991.

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Leventhal pulls out of SJSU presidential race

Elin Marcel
Capital Times Staff

Citing concerns about intense politics in the selection process, budget woes in California's higher education and personal finances, Penn State Harrisburg's Provost and Dean Ruth Leventhal has withdrawn

her name from the slate for the presidency of San Jose State University.

The controversy surrounding the selection process was a contributing factor to her withdrawal, Leventhal said. Originally, Leventhal was one of six candidates for the position, but the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for SJSU, instead of forwarding three names, unexpectedly recommended Leventhal as the lone candidate. Leventhal said this change, made in the middle of the selection process, was disconcerting.

"People get surprised and then suspicious about why change was made, and what it means," Leventhal said. "I hadn't created it, but I was put in the middle of it."

Leventhal, who had been recruited by a search firm hired by SJSU, said she was recommended to the firm by several people, but is not "actively on the market." She said she has not been on any other interviews over the past two years.

"I haven't allowed my name to go forward," Leventhal said. "I have been happy here. I get a lot of requests, but this

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Ruth Leventhal

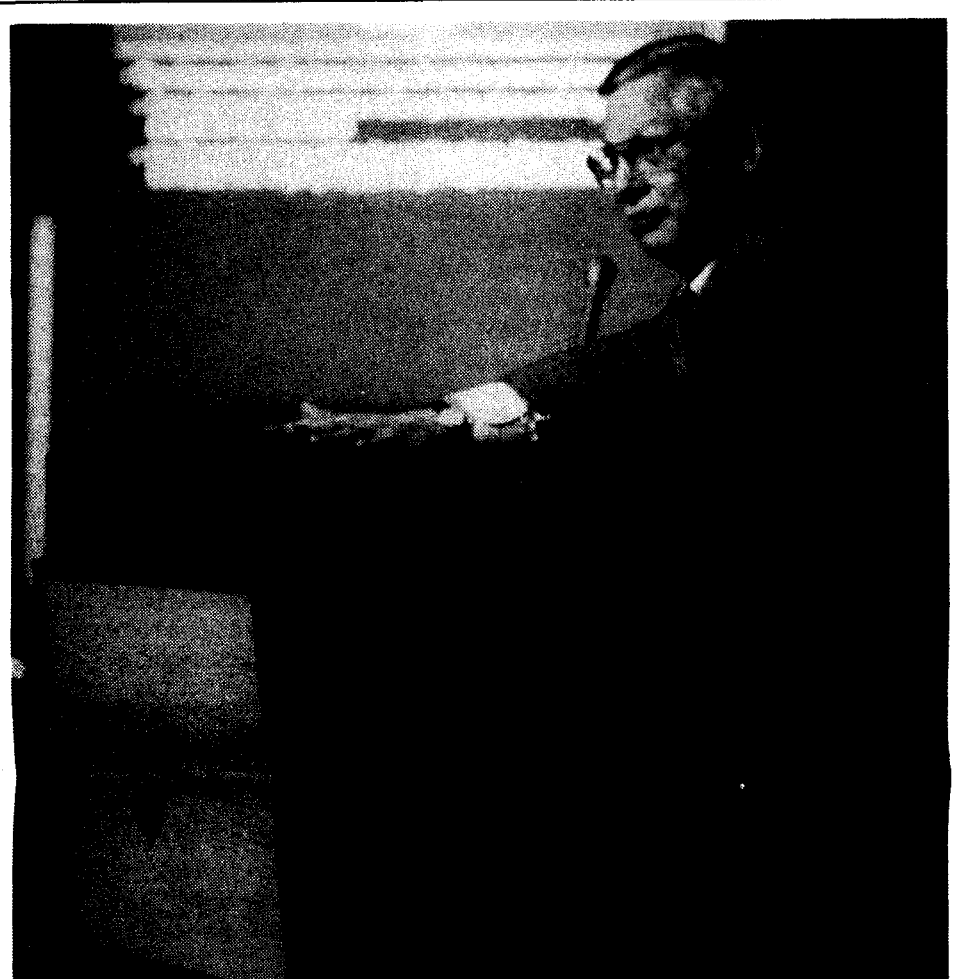


Photo by Mike Starkey

Author Speaks--Donald A. Curtis, a senior partner for the New York accounting firm Deloitte & Touche, argues that a "numbers approach" to management is flawed, and basic policies are crucial to achieving competitive advantage during his March 17 lecture in the Capital Union Building.

Computer access problem tackled by faculty council

Lee Ashton
Capital Times Staff

Concern that some students may be finding it increasingly difficult to gain access to computers was a key issue before the faculty council during its weekly meeting March 17.

Chaired by James R. Hudson, of the behavioral sciences and education division, the group said clarification is needed on a report submitted to them by the Penn State Harrisburg computer committee.

Guidelines attached to the report address standards governing future usage, but more information is needed before the council forwards the report with their endorsement to the PSH administration.

"Students need access to computers, there's no question about that," said Melvin Blumberg, representing the school of business administration. He told how several students have informed him about

frustrations encountered while attempting to get into a computer lab.

Ernest K. Dishner, assistant provost and dean of faculty, acknowledged that PSH has added "computer intensive" courses this year, and demand for the facilities has increased. He said the administration is aware of the situation and solutions are being sought.

"We don't have the long lines like University Park," Dishner said. He told the group PSH students are better off than their peers at main campus, because of an absence of lines of students waiting to get into labs.

He also said the available times for open lab access is better here, and so is the ratio of students per computer.

That ratio, according to Lakshmana Viswanath, director of computer and information systems at PSH, is "about 45

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